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MAHARASHTRA ASSEMBLY

SC SETS DEC 31 DEADLINE TO DECIDE ON DISQUALIFICATION PETITIONS

THE SPEAKER'S VERDICT WILL DECIDE THE FATE OF THE EKNATH SHINDE GOVT

Bench voiced displeasure when SG asked for time to be extended till February 29, 2024 to decide the disqualification petitions filed by the Uddhav Thackeray and Eknath Shinde factions of the Sena

The bench also directed the Speaker to decide on an NCP petition demanding disqualification of nine MLAs of the Ajit Pawar group by January 31, 2024

The court pointed out that it is concerned about the sanctity of the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution, which is designed to prevent defection of lawmakers from their parties

Procedural wranglings should not be permitted to delay a decision on the disqualification petitions, the court said

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Singur bites back, Didi ordered to pay Tata not-so-Nano relief

WB industrial development corpn told to cough up ₹766 crore as compensation

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

TATA Motors on Monday said it has won an arbitral award of ₹766 crore plus interest from the West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation (WBIDC) to compensate for its investment in the now-scrapped Nano project in Singur.

According to a regulatory filing by Tata Motors, a three-member arbitral tribunal unanimously held that the carmaker is entitled to recover ₹765.8 crore, along with interest at 11% per annum from September 1, 2016 till actual recovery thereof from WBIDC.

However, the ruling Trinamool Congress in West Bengal downplayed it, stressing legal avenues are open before the state government. "This is not a final verdict or a verdict by the Supreme Court. This is a ruling by an arbitral tribunal. It doesn't mean this is the end of the road for the state government. Legal avenues are still open for the state government," PTI quoted senior TMC MP Saugata Roy as saying.

One of the most controversial projects of the past two decades, the announcement and withdrawal of a Tata Motors' plant in Singur led to political uproar in Bengal. It arguably played an important role in marking the end of the Left Front government in the state it ruled for seven consecutive terms.

The then Tata Group boss Ratan Tata and Chief Minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee had in 2006 announced the facility in Singur to manufacture the affordable car — Nano. However, it faced flak from local farmers who claimed that they were being forced to give up their land for the project.

Mamata Banerjee, the then opposition leader, joined the farmers and played a pivotal role in forcing Tata Motors to suspend work at the plant in September 2008, a month before the scheduled rollout of Nano from there. Tata Motors was forced to relocate its plant to Gujarat.

LEASE DEED

After Mamata came to power, she announced an ordinance to take back land leased to Tata. The lease agreement had a clause that said if the acquisition was deemed illegal, the state would underwrite the company for the cost. This case was then referred for arbitration

THE SCAM

Delhi govt's excise policy to grant licences to liquor traders allowed cartelisation and favoured certain dealers who paid bribes, the ED said

ED summons Kejri in excise scam after Sisodia denied bail

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

THE Enforcement Directorate on Monday summoned Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal for questioning in the alleged liquor policy scam case in Delhi.

Kejriwal has been told to appear before the agency on November 2.

The ED is investigating the money laundering aspect of the case in which two AAP leaders — Manish Sisodia and Sanjay Singh — are already in jail.

The ED's notice to Kejriwal came hours after the Supreme Court rejected the bail plea of Sisodia, saying the accusation of "windfall gains" of ₹338 crore to wholesale liquor dealers was "tentatively supported" by evidence.

According to an official source, Kejriwal has been summoned under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) to record his statements in the ongoing investigation.

The agency will move further in the case after recording the statement of Kejriwal, said a source, adding that the CM's statements will also be correlated with those of the other accused.

Kejriwal's name figured many times in the chargesheets in the case. These references pointed out that the accused were in touch with Kejriwal on the now-withdrawn Delhi excise policy 2021-22.

Last April, the CBI had summoned the Delhi chief minister for questioning in connection with the same case.

BJP bid to finish AAP: Bhardwaj

AAP's Saurabh Bhardwaj alleged that the BJP govt wants to finish AAP by resorting to such tactics before the polls. "They are leaving no stone unturned to frame Kejriwal, send him to jail and finish AAP," he said

TRAIN ACCIDENT

RAILWAYS FAULTS RAYAGADA TRAIN DRIVER, ASSISTANT

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

THE driver and the assistant driver of the ill-fated Rayagada passenger train were prima-facie responsible for the Sunday evening accident in Andhra Pradesh, the initial probe by the Indian Railways has found. The driver of the train was killed in the mishap.

A senior railway official said the Rayagada passenger train overshot two defective signals at danger marks and hit the Visakhapatnam Palasa train from behind, killing 13 passengers and injuring dozens of others. This is the third major accident in recent months after those at Balasore (Odisha) and Raghunathpur (Bihar).

Following the accident, the railways formed a team of seven experts to conduct a prime-facie probe into the accident. After careful observation and analysis of technical sequences at the accident site, statements of officials and data loggers, the report found the driver and his assistant of Rayagada train overshot the signals.

Ignoring defective auto signal is a violation of railways' safety norms; trains passing through the line should have stopped for two minutes at the defective auto signals before proceeding at slow speed. The Rayagada passenger train didn't follow this norm, which led to the collision, the report said. P7

Erring staff to face action

Rail ministry is mulling action against staff flouting safety norms. In past five years, 211 cases of signal overshoots and 150 train derailments were reported

Rescue and restoration work underway at the accident site in Vizianagaram, AP | P11

EXPRESS READ

Lokayukta police raid 69 locations in state

Bengaluru: In one of the biggest operations in the recent past, the Lokayukta police on Monday conducted searches in 69 locations across the state over disproportionate assets cases registered against 17 officials. A statement said the raids unearthed crores of rupees. P5

Civilian shot dead by terrorists in Pulwama

Srinagar: A day after targeting a police officer, terrorists on Monday shot dead a labourer from Uttar Pradesh in Pulwama district of J&K. Security has been beefed up across Kashmir Valley, especially in Srinagar and south Kashmir areas, following the two terror attacks.

First B'luru Kambala to have 155m track, 116 buffalo owners confirm participation

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mangaluru

PUTTUR MLA and Bengaluru Kambala Committee president Ashok Kumar Rai on Monday said that 116 Kambala buffalo owners have registered their names to participate in the first-ever Kambala to be held in Bengaluru on November 25 and 26.

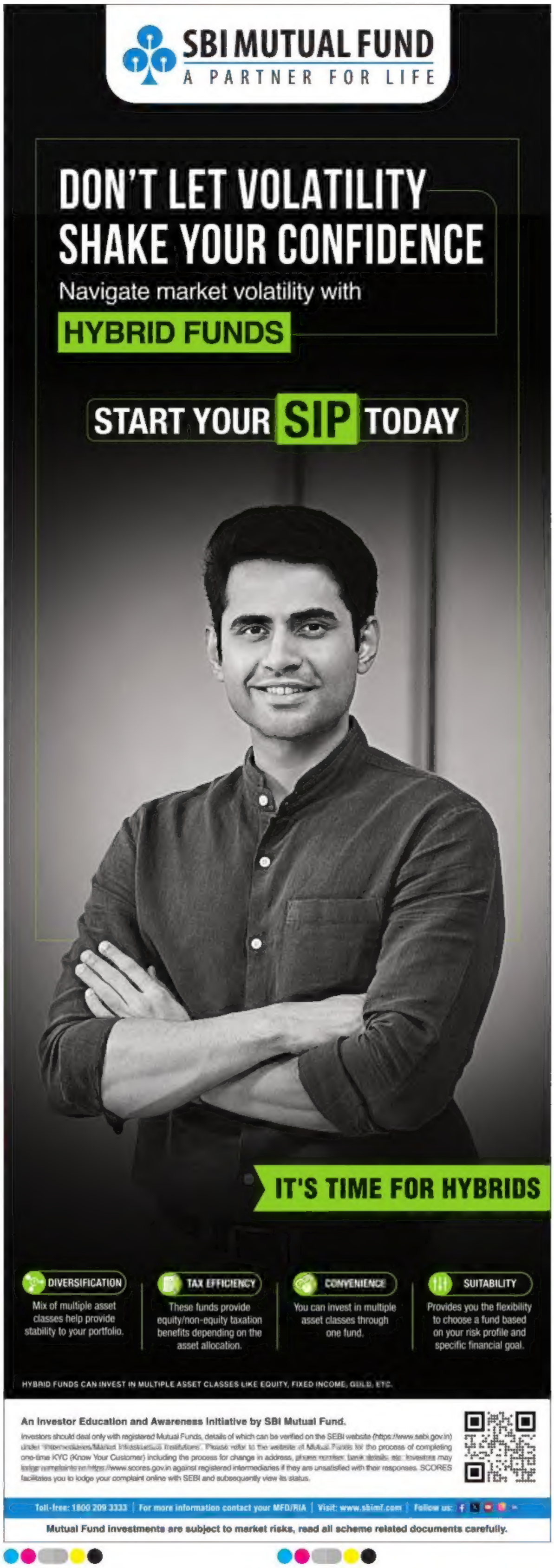
Addressing reporters here on Monday, he said over 8 lakh people are expected to witness the event at the Palace Grounds. The committee's aim is to make the two-day Kambala a record-breaking event and it will have the longest 'kare' (slush track) measuring 155 metres instead of the usual 145-metre one. The winner of the race will be given a cash prize of Rs 1.50 lakh.

"The idea behind organising Kambala in Bengaluru is to bring the issues faced by the Tulu-speaking community in the capital city to the notice of the government. Our target is to have at least 125 pairs of buffaloes participating in the event. We will provide Rs 50,000 to each buffalo owner as transport cost. We will set up stalls showcasing the traditional delicacies of Dakshina Kannada," he said.

The name of the Kambala track in Bengaluru will be finalised in a few days. "Proceedings of the Kambala will be spent on a Tulu bhavan in Bengaluru. A proposal to sanction one acre of land for the purpose will be put forth before the government during the event," Rai said.

Actors Rajnikanth, Sunil Shetty, Shilpa Shetty, Yash and Darshan and cricketer KL Rahul will participate in the event. Actor Aishwarya Rai Bachchan is yet to confirm her participation. Actor Anushka Shetty will inaugurate the event, he said.

On the demand to make Tulu as an official language, he said they have written to five departments in this regard and have received "No Objection Certificate" from one of them.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